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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT DIA-Metall

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. DIA-Metall has occupied its present premises at 45/46 Goerschstrasse, Berlin-Pankow, since mid-January 1954. The number of its personnel varies between 190 and 210, depending on the number of dismissals and replacements and on the number of persons absent at training courses of varying lengths. DIA-Metall is divided into four sections (so-called Saeulen). Previously, DIA-Metall received its instructions from Josef Orlopp's Department for Trade Policy (Abteilung Handelspolitik) in the Ministry for Internal and Foreign Trade. However, this department no longer issues orders to DIA-Metall. Orlopp's former deputy, Freund (fnu), and now the real power in this department, acts in a purely advisory capacity where DIA-Metall is concerned. The orders to DIA-Metall are issued by the Ministry's Main Department for Import (Hauptabteilung Import) through its chief Ueberfeld (fnu), a textile expert. Ueberfeld has been head of the Ministry's Main Department for Import since early January 1954. He is about 50 years old and was the director of DIA-Textil until the end of 1953.

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2. Director of DIA-Metall, and concurrently head of this organization's Section I, is Director Fritz Dolling.

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a. First Group: Internal German Trade

The chief is Department Head (Abteilungsleiter) Karl-Heinz Raabe,

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b. Second Group: Planning

The head of this group is Siegfried Saelzler,

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c. Third Group: Traffic

The head of this group is Hans Koepke,

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d. Fourth Group: Market reports and Prices

The head of this group, which was set up only this year, is Bodo Hermann.

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e. Fifth Group: Legal Matters

The head of this group is Dr. jur. Sachs (fnu),

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f. Sixth Group: Cadre of Personnel Department

The head of this group is Hildegard Krause;

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g. Seventh Group: Bad Schandau Branch Office (Aussenstelle)

Three DIA employees are stationed at this post.

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h. Eighth Group: Custodial Staff (Innere Verwaltung)

To this group belong the cleaning staff, two drivers, three guards,

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and two switchboard operators (females).

i. Ninth Group: Organization

This group consists of one person, a certain Witt (fnu)

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k. Besides those persons mentioned above, there are the following two secretaries:

(1) Dolling's secretary: Mrs. Rickforth (fnu)

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(2) Raabe's secretary: Mrs. Helene Anders;

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3. The chief of the Second Section is First Deputy Director of DIA-Metall August Harms.

a. First Group: Office (Kontor) no. 1 - Sheet metal

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The head of this group is Edith Mueller nee Wilms

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b. Second Group: Office no. 6 - Pig iron

The head of this group is Mrs. Krueckeberg (fnu)

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c. Third Group: Offices no. 7 and 8 - Nonferrous metals

The head of this group is Walter Bluhm;

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d. Fourth Group: Export

The head of this group is Marchner (fnu),

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e. Fifth Group: Wismar Branch Office (Aussenstelle)

Two DIA employees are stationed here to register all steel shipments to Berlin, which come in on Soviet ships.

4. The chief of the Third Section is Second Deputy Director of DIA-Metall, Neumann (fnu),

a. First Group: Office (Kontor) no. 2 - Bar steel (Stabstahl)

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The head of this group is Hans Blenke,

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- b. Second Group: Office no. 3 - High-grade refined steel (Edelstahl)

The head of this group is Fritz Gruenig; [redacted]

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- c. Third Group Office no. 4 - Cold-rolled band steel (Kaltband)

The head of this group is Lotte Froese; [redacted]

- d. Fourth Group: Office no. 5 - Pipes and tubing (the most important of all these offices)

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The head of this group is Herbert Thiele; [redacted]

- e. Fifth Group: Frankfurt/Oder Branch Office; (Aussenstelle)

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This office is a most important DIA branch office. All material coming from the USSR by rail passes through this point and must be received, registered, and computed, often also rerouted. The head of the station is Miss Kempfert (fnu), [redacted]

5. The following is valid for all of the offices of the Second and Third Sections: The various office chiefs are empowered to conduct transactions with Western representatives, but the final terms of the contracts concerning amounts and prices of the various types of steel must be approved by Raabe.

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6. The Fourth Section is called the Financial Group (Finanzgruppe). The head is the chief bookkeeper Kurt Saemig, [redacted]

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7. It should be noted here that the personnel figures in the above-mentioned groups may vary by one or two. Whether or not an SSD unit also exists there is not known. However, SSD personnel goes in and out of the offices daily, informing the directors and chiefs about various Western representatives. There is also a feeling that all DIA employees are under constant surveillance and therefore refrain from treating Western representatives too cordially. The three highest posts in DIA-Metall, i.e. the director's and his two deputies' posts, were created purely for tried friends of the SED and the Soviets in order to use them in all sorts of dirty dealings. According to recent observations, it is not the SSD, but the MVD that has a hand in the game. [redacted]

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8. The USSR has promised East German annual deliveries of 10,000 tons of copper. These deliveries very seldom come from the USSR, [redacted]

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[redacted] From time to time, at the end of the year, the Soviets keep their promise and the copper is delivered. In 1954, 10,000 tons of copper are to come from Russia (the exact tonnage has not yet been decided, i.e. the Soviet confirmations have not yet been received). The Soviet trade firms have suffered reverses and are not able on their own initiative to fill East German's copper needs. During the last week of February, Deputy Director of DIA-Metall Harms had conferences with representatives of the Soviet Trade Representation. The Soviets asked Harms to look for procurement possibilities concerning bar copper and informed him that they were ready to place at his [redacted] [redacted] for the purchase of such copper.

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*Note: Literal translation: company husbandman .

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11. According to reports, Poland will ship the following goods to East Germany during 1954:

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|---|--------------|
| a. Zinc | 3,000 tons |
| b. Drawn wire | 350-400 tons |
| The USSR has promised the following: | |
| a. Rolling-mill products | 385,000 tons |
| b. Pig iron and ferroalloys | 240,000 tons |
| c. Pipes | 27,500 tons |
| d. Thin-walled pipe (300,000 m) | 400-500 tons |
| e. Nonferrous metals: | 52,000 tons |
| (1) copper | 15,000 tons |
| (2) lead | 15,000 tons |
| (3) aluminum | 10,000 tons |
| (4) The remainder, or 12,000 tons, will include: mercury, silver, gold, zinc, tin, magnesium, manganese, and metallic chrome. | |
| f. Material of the second stage of manufacture (known in West Germany as drawn material) | 3,500 tons |
| g. Light-section iron (Kleineisen) (cable) | 8,000 tons |

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